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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 14 (d) of the provisional agenda

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

Written statement* submitted by Rehabilitation International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 April 2002]

*This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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ENG

On behalf of the 600 million citizens with disabilities, represented by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) which is composed of the following global organisations;

Disabled People's International (DPI)
Inclusion International (II)
Rehabilitation International (RI)
World Blind Union (WBU)
World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)
World Federation of Deafblind (WFDB)
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP)

A significant number of people from all parts of the world, people with different disabilities, came to Geneva to discuss disability issues with the Commission on Human Rights.
Upon our arrival, we were notified that the agenda had been changed, and due to fixed travel arrangements we will not be present when discussions on disability take place.

In this regard, with respect, we would ask that in future, consideration is given to a more precise timing so that the current situation will not occur again.

In conclusion, we wish to express the following to the Commission on Human Rights;

1. *Acknowledge* that there should be a Special Rapporteur on Disability at the Commission on Human Rights.
2. *Consider* that the work of the Special Rapporteur be co-ordinated with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development and the Panel of Experts.
3. *Appeal* to the Commission on Human Rights to endorse the proposal of a Convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of people with disabilities.
4. *Urge* the Commission on Human Rights to set aside a thematic day for discussion on disability at the 59th session in 2003.
5. *Recommend* that at least one permanent member of staff, preferable a person with disability should work on full time basis with disability and human rights issues.
6. *Urge* the Commission that real possibilities will be given to organisations of people with disabilities, to actively participate in the elaboration of a convention.
7. *Invite* member states to appoint persons with disabilities in their drafting groups and delegations.

Finally we give full support to the Commission on Human Rights in developing a disability dimension to the present human rights monitoring system in accordance with the twin-track approach, proposed by the UN Special Rapporteur, Dr. Bengt Lindqvist in his report to the Commission on Human Rights.

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